

April  
1991

# Carolina Country<sup>®</sup>

The photo below and others inside are from a photography contest that marked the closing of Raleigh's Hodges Street Farmers Market. See pages 10-11 for details and more of the contest photos.

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# U.S. Must Look Again At Nuclear Energy



*"Viewpoint" is a monthly commentary by Wayne D. Keller, executive vice president of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and its allied corporations making up the statewide organization of electric cooperatives.*

The Persian Gulf war has drawn new attention to the nation's dependence on its supply of oil from that part of the world.

As a result, many top officials of government and the utilities industry are saying it's time to look again at the advantages of nuclear power. The arguments for doing so were spelled out succinctly in a recent newsletter column by Emmett S. Patterson, manager of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Lenoir, N.C. It appeared in the EMC's monthly consumer newsletter.

Here's what he had to say:

With all the problems in the Middle East and the possible effects on the oil supply, it might be proper to look again at nuclear power. From 1973 through 1989, it is estimated that nuclear power plants saved this country from importing more than **four billion** barrels of oil. If this oil been imported, the impact on our economy would have added **\$125 billion** to our balance of payments problem.

To be certain, nuclear power has its problems—primarily disposal of the so-called "spent" fuel. Actually the spent fuel still contains much energy. To utilize it, the fuel would have to be reprocessed. The United States does not reprocess spent fuel because of a decision made by President Carter during his administration. A by-product of reprocessing is plutonium, which is a fuel source for nuclear bombs. President Carter felt that the possibility of plutonium

falling into the wrong hands was worth not utilizing the remaining energy in the spent fuel.

I believe that President Carter made a mistake. The scientific community immediately pointed out that in order to be useful for a bomb, plutonium had to be very pure. The reprocessing facility could easily keep the plutonium far below the purity needed for a bomb. They also pointed out that any country that had facilities to purify the plutonium didn't need to steal it because they could manufacture their own.

Had we gone ahead with reprocessing, the amount of nuclear waste from nuclear plants would have been greatly reduced. In addition, there would have been considerable savings in fuel costs.

It might be well to put the nuclear waste issue into some perspective. I am told that the chemical industry produces some 300 million tons of waste each year. A lot of this is toxic. Compare this to the total amount of spent fuel in the United States from **all** past nuclear power plant operations—17,000 tons.

I am certainly aware that storage of waste is a problem—no one wants it in their back yard. However, there are places in the western United States where underground nuclear testing has been going on for years. These test facilities have added considerably to the economy of that state. I don't understand their reluctance to accept a few more tons of radioactive material. The hills are already full of it. The storage of high level nuclear waste is not a technical problem, but a social and political one.

With the concern about the environment associated with burning coal and the war in the Middle East, we must find alternatives to petroleum fuels. Perhaps it is an appropriate time to again consider nuclear power, reprocessing of spent fuel and the permanent storage of nuclear wastes.

6

Here/There/  
Everywhere

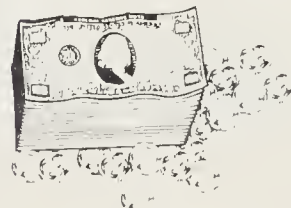
10

Bidding Farewell  
To A Familiar  
Landmark



12

'Inequitable'  
Proposal Would  
Raise Co-ops' Cost



14

Mailbox

26

Horizon



# 1991 Carolina Country®

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

A number of our readers have asked for more information about the Watermark Association of Artisans, which was spotlighted in a two-page color ad in our March issue. The ad for North Carolina's statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) described a joint project involving the Pasquotank County crafts cooperative and Albermarle EMC, Hertford, and featured a photo of wooden figures that were carved by a Watermark artisan.

Plans call for a feature on the project to be published in *Carolina Country* later this year, but if you're in the Pasquotank County area you can visit the Watermark shop on Highway 158 East, about three miles outside of Elizabeth City. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

To contact the organization, write to Watermark Artisans, P.O. Box 397, Camden, NC 27921, or call (919) 338-0853.



If you read the captions for the photos we used with our March article on the electric cooperatives' employee safety programs, you could well have experienced a strong sense of *deja vu*. We inadvertently used the same caption under two photos on the same page. To make matters even worse, the caption was wrong even when it appeared under the proper picture.

Photo No. 1 showed four safety inspectors checking over a truck Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Shallotte. We identified it as a *bucket* truck when it was, in fact, a *service* truck.

Photo No. 2 showed five inspectors conducting a safety check at a substation of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro. A caption describing that scene was properly in place beneath the photo until a last-minute change had to be made as the page was being processed for printing. In making the required "correction," we somehow picked up the caption for Photo No. 1 for use under Photo No. 2 as well.

Apologies to all the inspectors involved! Rest assured, fellows, we know the difference between a substation and an EMC truck—and we will be more careful about describing those vehicles accurately in the future.

Best regards,

*Owen Bishop*

## Cover: Prize-Winning Farmers Market Photo

Our cover this month features the grand prize winner from the "First and Last Farmers Market Photo Contest" that marked the final months of operation of the Raleigh Farmers Market on Hodges Street.

Jenny Sheridan of Raleigh won an autofocus camera with this shot of her son, Liam, enjoying some of summer's bounty amid a display of geraniums.

Many of the photos from the contest will be part of a permanent exhibit at the new Raleigh market, which will open in May. More photos from the contest appear on pages 10 and 11.



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## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

### **Waxhaw Show To Feature Antique Autos**

More than 60 antique car dealers will be displaying their best automobiles at the Waxhaw Antique and Craft Show, May 25-27, in downtown Waxhaw.

The show, which will also feature an international food fest, will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. the first and last days, and from noon to 6 p.m. the second day.

For more information, contact the Waxhaw Antique Village Association, P.O. Box 555, Waxhaw, NC 28173. Phone: (704) 843-2917.

### **Concord Festival Set For May 17-18**

Bike races and the music of Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs will highlight the Sixth Annual Share Cabarrus Festival, May 17-18, in Concord.

The festival, sponsored by the Concord-Cabarrus County



Chamber of Commerce, will feature crafts, food, entertainment and gold panning. In addition, on May 17, downtown Concord will host a number of bike races sponsored by the U. S. Cycling Federation.

For more information, contact the chamber at P. O. Box 1029, Concord, NC 28026. Phone: (704) 782-4111.

### **Bluegrass Festival Set For May 24-26**

Bluegrass lovers will have plenty to attract them to the 1991 Ole Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival, May 24-26, in Union Grove.

The festival will take place at the Fiddler's Grove Campground, with entertainment featured at the outdoor amphitheater.

A number of artists will perform during the festival, including "Doc" Watson.

For more information about the festival, contact Harper Van Hoy, P.O. Box 11, Union Grove, NC 28689. Phone: (704) 539-4417.

### **Language Camps Slated In Surry County**

Students can experience French and

Spanish cultures this summer at Camp Hanes near King.

Camp Esperance (French) and Camp Esperanza (Spanish) will offer a cultural adventure to elementary, junior high and senior high students.

The sessions and prices are: Elementary, grades 4-6, July 14-17, \$250; Junior High, grades 7-9, July 20-26, \$295; and Senior High, grades 10-12, July 28 through Aug. 3, \$295.

For more information, contact the camp at Rt. 4, Box 330-A, Statesville, NC 28677. During evenings phone: (704) 876-0656.



### **Maggie Valley Sets Bloomin' Saturday**

Crafts, food, entertainment and a plant sale will highlight "A Bloomin' Saturday," May 11, at the Maggie Valley Community Center.

The show will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the Golden Gathering, P.O. Box

126, Maggie Valley, NC 28751. Phone: (704) 926-2945.

### **Recipes Sought For N. C. Turkey Cooking Competition**

Entries are being accepted through June 1 for the North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest, with a top prize of \$800 being offered.

The contest, sponsored by the N. C. Turkey Federation, is open to all state residents. Recipes must include one pound of fresh or fully cooked turkey meat. Entries should make between four and eight servings.

To enter, send your name, address, phone number and your favorite turkey recipe to: N. C. Turkey Federation, 4020 Barrett Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.

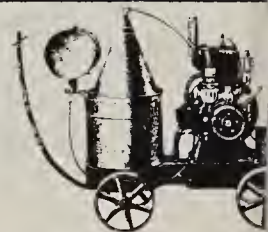
### **Art Show Series Scheduled In Blowing Rock**

Blowing Rock Memorial Park will be the site of a series of art shows throughout the coming year.

The 29th Annual Art in the Park series will feature juried art shows May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 7 and Oct. 5.

The series, sponsored by the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, will feature more than 125 exhibitors.

For more information, contact the chamber at P.O. Box 406, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Phone: (704) 295-7851.



### **Auction Feature Farm-Related Collectibles**

A wide variety of antiques and farm-related collectibles will be sold at the Scho Engine Shop Public Auction, May 4, in Sugar Grove.

Restored engine old advertising signs and model cars will be a few of the many items for sale at the auction. For more information, contact Raymond Scholl, P.O. Box 459-A, Sugar Grove, NC 28679.





## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

### Kites Featured in New Exhibit

A giant Chinese dragon kite with a 45-foot tail will be the focus of a new exhibit at the Snuggs House in Albemarle.

"Kites: A Study," sponsored by the Albemarle-Stanly Historic Preservation Commission will feature numerous historical kites and various kites that were used for military and scientific purposes. The exhibit will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through June.

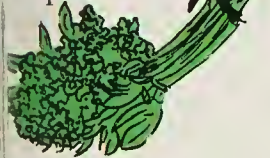
For more information on the exhibit, contact the Snuggs House, 112 N. Third St., Albemarle, NC 28001. Phone: (704) 983-7316.



### Open House Will Include Tours of Herb Gardens

A spring Open House has been scheduled for May 18-19 at the Tree Herbs in Hyde County.

The event will feature tours of the gardens in bloom, refreshments and door prizes.



The shop and gardens, which are in the Grassy Ridge community off NC 45, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 18 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 19. For more information, call Kathie

Harvey at (919) 935-5267.

### Watauga County Festival Slated For May 4-5

Mayfest, a juried arts and craft festival, is scheduled for May 4-5 at the Varsity and Broome-Kirk gyms at Appalachian State University in Boone.

The festival, once called the Watauga Spring Festival, will feature a photo competition, quilting competition and "Ugly Pet" contest.

For more information, call the Northwestern Small Business and Technology Development Center at (704) 262-2095.

### Chicken Festival Set In Siler City For May 17-19

Siler City will celebrate the chicken at the Third Annual Chicken Festival, May 17-19.

The festival, sponsored by the town's Chamber of Commerce and the Chat-ham County Arts Council, will feature crafts, food, entertainment and a classic car show.

For more informa-

tion, contact the chamber at (919) 742-3333.

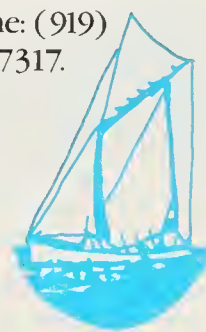
### Wooden Boat Show Set For May 4-5

Crafted wooden boats will be on display and in the water at the 17th Annual Traditional Wooden Boat Show, May 4-5, in Beaufort.

The show, which will be held at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, will

also include boat races at nearby Taylor's Creek. Admission is free.

For more information, contact the N. C. Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC 28516. Phone: (919) 728-7317.



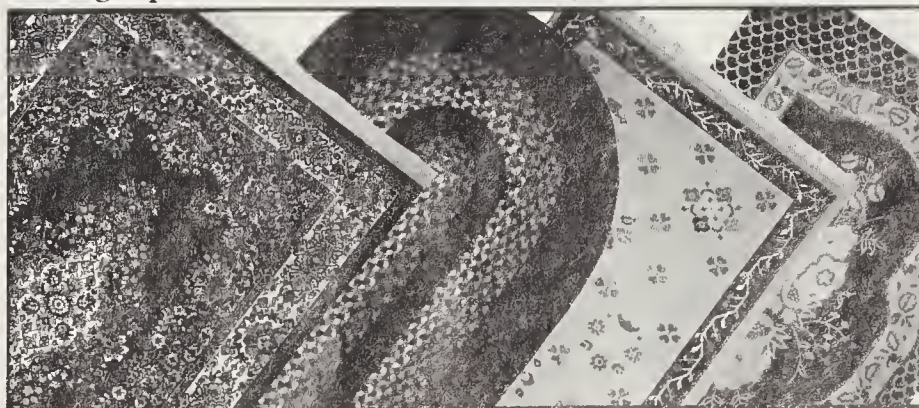
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## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

### Book Spotlights *Battle Of Fort Fisher*

A new book focusing on the attack and siege of Fort Fisher is now available at local bookstores across the state.

*Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher* (HarperCollins Publishers, \$25), draws upon diaries and other historical documents to highlight one of the confederacy's top ports.

Written by Rod Gragg, the 343-page book describes the 1864-65 battle as one of the bloodiest naval encounters of the Civil War.

Fort Fisher is located at Kure

Beach, 20 miles south of Wilmington. For details on visitor attractions at Fort Fisher, call (919) 458-5538.



### Herbfest Set For May 25 At Deep Gap

Herbs from all over the world and in many varieties will highlight the Second Annual Herbfest, May 25, at Deep Gap in Watauga County.

The event will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. at Goldenrod Mountain Herbs, eight miles east of Boone. Countless household items using organic herbs will be on display and for sale.

For more information, contact Alyce Nadeau at (704) 264-2683.

### Blowing Rock To Host May 4 Spring Fest

Bluegrass, jazz and clogging will be in ample supply at the

Second Annual Spring Fest, May 4, in Blowing Rock.

The all-day event, sponsored by the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, will also feature food, a street dance and clowns to entertain children.

For more information, contact the chamber at P.O. Box 406, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Phone: (704) 295-7851.

### Carthage To Host Buggy Festival

Music, buggies, a street dance, a softball tournament and arts and crafts will be part of the Third Annual Carthage Buggy Festival at the Courthouse Square in Carthage, May 17-18.

The Saturday night street dance will feature an oldies show by WMAG radio personality Rod Davis.

For more information, write or call the Moore County Parks and Recreation Department, P.O. Box 905, Carthage, NC 28327. Phone: (919) 947-2504.



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30-34	I	108.85	96.05	81.85
	P/C	152.35	134.45	114.60
	F	284.55	250.95	213.85
35-39	I	115.65	102.05	86.95
	P/C	159.30	140.45	119.70
	F	287.30	253.30	215.90
40-44	I	119.90	105.65	90.05
	P/C	163.45	144.05	122.80
	F	288.65	255.10	217.45
45-49	I	122.55	108.05	92.10
	P/C	166.05	146.50	124.85
	F	291.15	256.90	218.95
50-54	I	125.30	110.45	94.15
	P/C	168.85	148.85	126.85
	F	295.45	260.50	222.05
55-59	I	149.80	132.05	112.55
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## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



### **Raleigh Landmarks To Highlight New Exhibit, May 5-29**

More than 50 paintings and drawings of Raleigh scenes will be featured, May 5-29, at a new exhibition at the Sertoma Arts Center in Raleigh.

"Eclectic Raleigh" will feature the work of Mary Ann Hanson, whose "The Carousel's Patriot" was featured on the cover of the July, 1990, *Carolina Country* magazine. The exhibition will be highlighted by numerous paintings and drawings of Raleigh-area landmarks.

For more information, contact the Sertoma Arts Center, 1400 Millbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612, or call (919) 782-7583.



### **April Declared Poultry Month**

Gov. Jim Martin has declared April as "Poultry Products Month" in North Carolina.

The poultry industry pumps more than \$1 billion dollars into the state's econ-

omy, with chickens, turkeys, ducklings and eggs having a combined market value of more than \$2 billion.

More than 20,000 jobs are directly involved in poultry production, marketing and processing.

In a signed resolution, Gov. Martin said North Carolina ranks first in the nation in turkey production, second in duckling production, fourth in commercial broiler production and eighth in egg production.

## Federal Funds Denied For Repairs Due To Collapse Of Bonner Bridge

The federal government has denied North Carolina's request for a Presidential Emergency Declaration to help pay for repairs resulting from the collapse of the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge in October.

Three spans on the bridge were damaged by a dredge during a wind storm—cutting the Outer Banks' only highway link to the mainland.

The accident also cut off the flow of electricity to the Outer Banks. Emergency generators and North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation's Ocracoke Generating Station supplied power for a week until power cables on the bridge were repaired.

Cape Hatteras EMC, Buxton, was particularly hard hit because its main transmission cables had to be repaired. The EMC suffered more than \$1.5 million in damages.

Tideland EMC, Pantego, which serves consumers on Ocracoke Island, suffered about \$40,000 in damages.

State officials estimate that repairs to the Bonner Bridge, which have already been completed, will total about \$6 million.

Denial of emergency status means no federal funds will be available to help pay for the damages. Gov. Jim Martin applied for the funds in November. After an initial denial, the state appealed the decision. The final ruling came in January.

Damages are still being sought against the owner of the dredge company, claiming negligence in the bridge accident.

## Former CEO Of North Carolina Co-op Organization Is Honored

A former chief executive officer of North Carolina's statewide organization of rural electric cooperatives has been awarded a national honor for his contributions to rural electrification.

Robert N. Cleveland, who was manager of the Tar Heel organization from 1973 until 1977, received the 1991 Clyde T. Ellis Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The award, which is considered to be NRECA's highest honor, was presented at the national organization's 1991 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Cleveland, whose career in the co-op program spanned 43 years, was elected to the board of a co-op in his native Kentucky at the age of 21. In 1961, he joined the staff of the Kentucky statewide organization. He later headed its counterpart in Colorado before moving to North Carolina. In 1977, he became president of the Ohio statewide organization and its generating and transmission co-op.

He retired in 1989 and now resides in Louisville with his wife, Joan.

The national award memorializes Clyde T. Ellis, who was NRECA's first general manager.



# Bidding Farewell To A Familiar Landmark

How do you say goodbye to a familiar landmark that's about to be replaced after more than three decades?

That question captured the attention of officials in the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) last year as they made plans for moving Raleigh's popular Farmers Market to a new location in 1991.

The market will move in May from Hodges Street to gleaming new facilities near the intersection of Lake Wheeler Road and I-40 on the southern edge of the capital city.

Charles Edwards, manager of the Raleigh market, said plans for the move had stirred mixed feelings for many of those who've been part of the market over the years.

Yet those feelings are largely offset by the prospect of moving to more spacious quarters, he added.

"We were getting very cramped at the old market. The new market will have 1,000 parking spaces and encompass 75 acres. It will be better for sellers and for customers."

The Hodges Street facility, which has been in operation since 1955, is the oldest of the NCDA's three Farmers Markets across the state. The Asheville market opened in 1977; the Charlotte market, in 1984.



In preparing for the transition to the new Raleigh market, the agency decided to mark the old market's "swan song" summer with a celebration that would save some familiar images of market activity for future generations.

It took the form of a photo competition called "The First and Last Farmers Market Photo Contest."

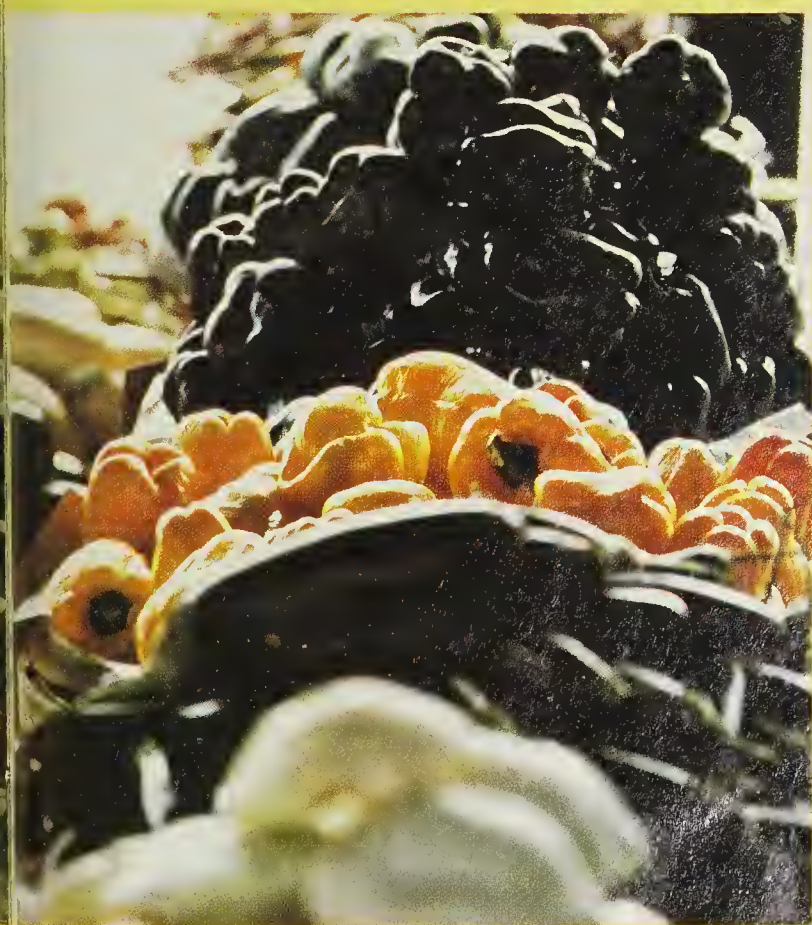
A photo by Jenny Sheridan of Raleigh won the contest's grand prize, a Minolta Maxxum 3000i autofocus camera. (See front cover.) Other winners were Linda E. Kimbrough, H. Palmour III and Wynn Cherry, all of Raleigh.

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham said he appreciated the efforts of the various photographers who participated in the contest.

"We now have some wonderful visual references to remind us of the Hodges Street facility."

Many of the photos entered in the contest will be used in a traveling exhibit and in a permanent exhibit at the new Farmers Market. (See related story, page 31).





*These vivid images were among the entries in the "First and Last Farmers Market Photo Contest," sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Sam Bass Camera in Raleigh, WRAL Mix 101.5 and Wyatt-Quarles Seeds.*

*Jenny Sheridan of Raleigh won the contest's grand prize with the photo on the front cover. It shows her 18-month-old son Liam eating watermelon outside Logan Trading Company.*

*Linda E. Kimbrough of Raleigh shot the photo, opposite page, of L. Z. Creech proudly displaying some of his prized sweet corn on the back of a pickup truck. Creech is a Wake County farmer.*

*Hayne Palmour III of Raleigh shot all of the other photos as part of a series. He titled them, "Still Life With Peaches," "Still Life With Strawberries," and "Still Life With Mixed Vegetables."*

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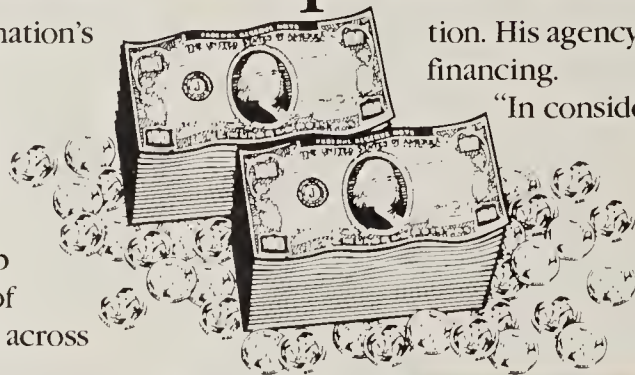
*A story in the May Carolina Country will provide details regarding Raleigh's new Farmers Market, along with photos and a map showing its location on the southern edge of the capital city.*



## *'Means Test' Opposed*

# 'Inequitable' Proposal Would Raise Co-ops' Costs

Leaders of the nation's 1,000 rural electric systems have raised strong objections to a new government program that threatens to drive up costs for hundreds of cooperative utilities across the country.



tion. His agency provides loans to co-ops as a supplement to REA financing.

"In considering any means test, one must remember that a means test is by definition inequitable," he said. "As each rural electric system compares its position with other systems, it will conclude that it is as deserving of as much federal assistance as those who may be categorized as being more needy."

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA), the federal agency that lends money to the consumer-owned rural electric systems, has unveiled a plan that would raise interest costs for co-ops if the agency decides they can afford to pay more.

Under REA's plan, some co-ops would find their access to low-interest government loans severely restricted if they serve areas with low unemployment or high per capita incomes in comparison with other areas across the country. The formula for determining which co-ops could borrow at low rates would also use other utility industry yardsticks, including power costs and sales per mile of line.

The plan is expected to raise financing costs for about 650 rural electric systems. At least half of these would see interest rates jump by a full percentage point or more, and 91 co-ops would see their cost of money skyrocket by more than a third—from about 6.4 percent to almost 9.1 percent.

Bob Bergland, head of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, charged that the REA plan amounted to a "radical" break with lending procedures that have worked for years.

The REA proposal, he said, "violates workable, equitable principles for access to funds that have assured a reliable and affordable source of financing for America's consumer-owned rural electric systems."

The plan, which co-op leaders have dubbed a "means test," would pit co-ops against co-ops in seeking credit at the lowest available rate, said Charles Gill, chief of the co-op-owned National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corpora-

## Co-ops' Financing Costs Could Increase By More Than A Third

Rural electric systems, like all electric utilities, need an adequate, reasonably priced supply of credit. REA's new lending proposal would drive up this key component of a co-op's costs.

Here's how:

Let's say ABC Rural Electric Co-op needs \$10,000 to build a power line to serve your new home. ABC decides to borrow that money so it can spread the cost among all its members and over many years. Under current rules, ABC (like most co-ops) borrows 70 percent of what it needs from REA at 5 percent interest and the rest from a private lender such as the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation at regular market interest rates.

To build that line to your new home, ABC will borrow \$7,000 from REA and \$3,000 from a private, supplemental lender. When the total cost of these borrowed funds is calculated, the co-op is paying an effective interest rate of 6.43 percent.

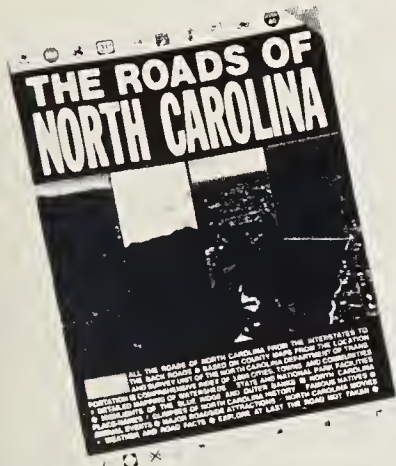
Under the proposed new procedure, REA would first rank ABC among all other electric co-ops to decide how much financing help it can get. The co-op would get less than 70 percent of its financing covered by a loan at 5 percent interest ... if:

- The co-op is in an area with low unemployment, or ...
- The co-op's territory has consumers with an average per-capita income that is higher than the average for most other co-ops, or ...
- The co-op's rates aren't too much higher than the statewide average, or ...
- The co-op scores favorably on five other scales ...

Depending where ABC Rural Electric falls on those scales, it could end up with REA supplying as little as 14 percent of the project's total cost—or \$1,400 of the \$10,000 it needs. At that level of REA support, the co-op would pay a blended interest rate of almost 9.1 percent. That means the co-op's overall cost of money would go up by more than a third.



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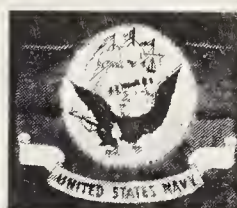
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## MAILBOX

### **Magazine Article On Energy Efficiency Of Mobile Homes Was "Honest And Factual"**

I just read Janet B. Jones' "Mailbox" letter (February issue) about mobile home purchases. Ms. Jones is obviously a knowledgeable purchaser of a manufactured home. She apparently dealt with a knowledgeable retail dealer of manufactured housing. She unfortunately is a minority in the overall purchasers of manufactured housing.

The heat pump/energy article (November, 1990, issue) was the bottom-line truth and it was an excellent article to make future purchasers aware of energy saving through knowledgeable purchasing of manufactured housing. I thought the article so honest and factual that I sent out about 750 copies to our mobile home dealer customers.

We wanted to help make our mobile home dealers aware of their being able to do a true service to their customers—a service their customers would benefit from for years to come. Apparently Ms. Jones did business with a progressive-thinking manufactured housing dealer.

My company does business in the mobile home trade in seven Southern states. All winter we hear time and time again about the high cost of utilities, and the truth is, not many people looked into, or questioned, or were misled about true energy savings benefits that could have been derived from an energy package.

Another truth is: All the utility companies hear from upset customers about their monthly utility billings. (*Not* the seller of the home).

I know the utility companies spent considerable time and money using their employees and advertising to make the consumer more knowledgeable concerning energy savings that result in lower monthly utility bills.

Keep this type of article in your publication. Help make us more aware of what we all can do to help the consumer (each of us) make smart investments that pay dividends for years and years.

*J. David Whitener, President  
Hickory Mobile Home Supply, Inc.  
Hickory*

### **North Carolina Ranks High In Government Spending**

Just a few months ago *The News and Observer* and *The Wall Street Journal* published information showing that the State of North Carolina ranked fifth in the percentage increase of spending tax dollars for state and local government. Total expenditures were just below Massachusetts and just above New York.

Recently *The Wall Street Journal* published another article showing that the State of North Carolina ranked seventh in the Top Ten states for total state insurance premiums of \$11.96 billion, fifth for department budget of \$18.7 million, third for regulatory spending of 16 percent of total premiums and fifth for a staff of 356.

If you don't think these expenditures are shocking, then compare these high costs of regulatory spending with the State of Indiana: Premiums—\$11.82 billion, about the same as North Carolina; department budget—\$3.3 million (NC—\$18.7 million), regulatory spending—2 percent of total premiums (NC—16 percent), staff—99 (NC—356). This is

another documented example of the North Carolina taxpayers being ripped off by the politicians that continue to tax and spend, tax and spend.

*Coy Mercer,  
Rt. 1, Alberts*

### **Carolina Country: "A Down-To-Earth Magazine"**

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*Mary Minn  
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## Brunswick EMC Manager Re-elected President Of Rural TV' Co-op Board

David J. Batten, executive vice president and general manager of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Shallotte, has been re-elected president of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) Board of Directors.

At NRTC's Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Batten was elected to his second one-year term as NRTC's president. Earlier he served as vice president of the agency.

Batten represents North Carolina and several other states on the national board.

The Virginia-based NRTC offers television programming to satellite dish owners in rural areas across the country.

NRTC's package, called "Rural TV," includes many of the selections available from cable television systems, which rarely serve territory outside the cities where they're based. Currently, "Rural TV" has more than 56,000 subscribers nationwide—1,500 in North Carolina.

Through its subsidiary, Rural Consumer Service Corporation, Brunswick EMC became the first Tar Heel electric co-op to offer "Rural TV" in 1987.



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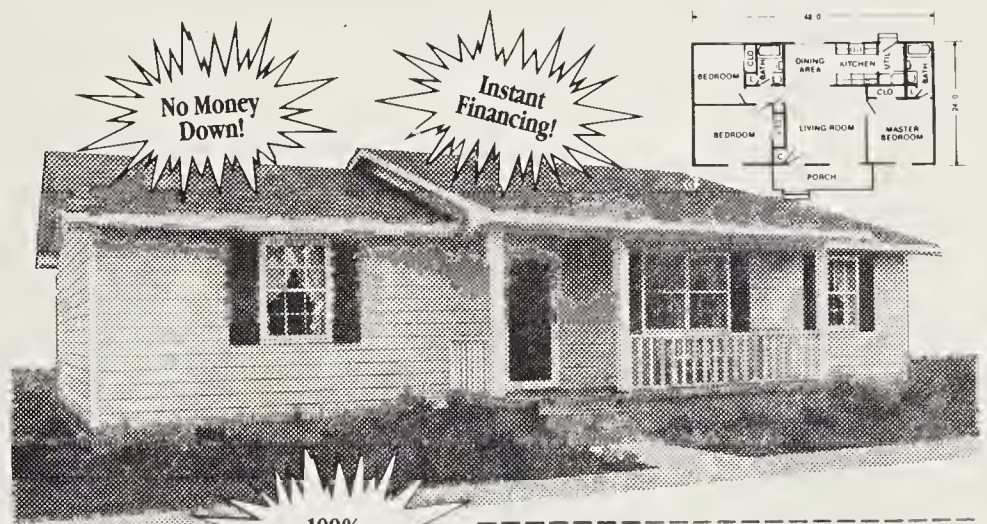
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The law, adopted in 1990, makes it a misdemeanor to be in unauthorized possession of milk crates that bear a company name. Trying to erase a company name from a crate is also illegal.

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To request a poster, contact the Carolina/Virginia Dairy Products Association, P.O. Box 3159, Durham, NC 27715. Phone: (919) 382-0333.



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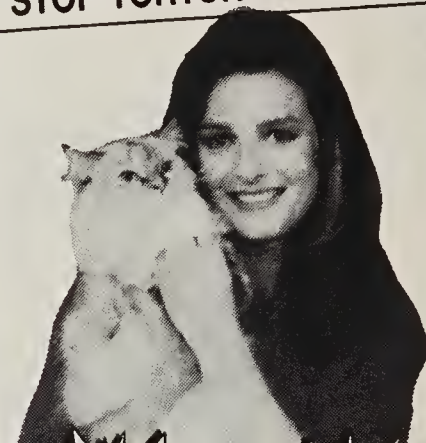
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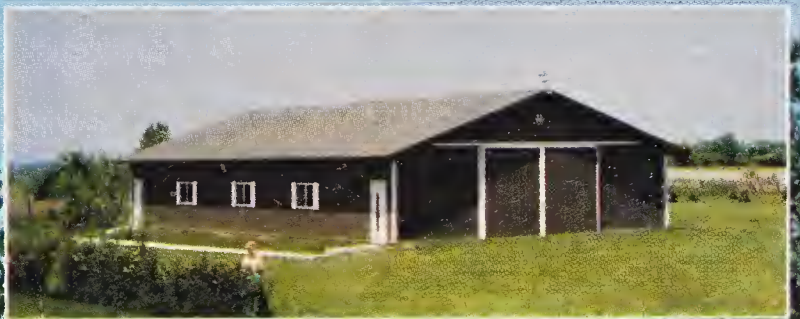
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## EMCs Endorse The Role Of North Carolina's Community Colleges

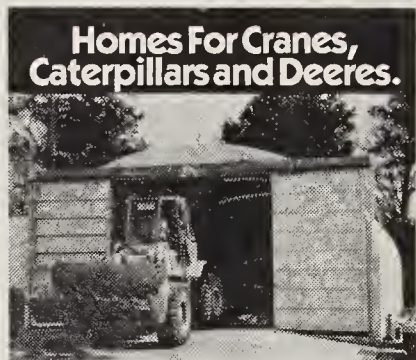
A report calling for changes in North Carolina's community colleges has drawn support from the state's Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs).

The report, "Gaining the Competitive Edge: The Challenge to North Carolina's Community Colleges," was supported by a resolution adopted recently by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC).

NCAEC is the statewide trade association for the 28 EMCs across the state.

The resolution praised the past accomplishments of the community college system, noting that the system "is strongly positioned to respond to the needs of a changing and more demanding marketplace."

The report, compiled by the Commission on the Future of the North Carolina Community College System, has also been endorsed by 11 other statewide trade associations and more than 110 economic development, civic and educational groups.



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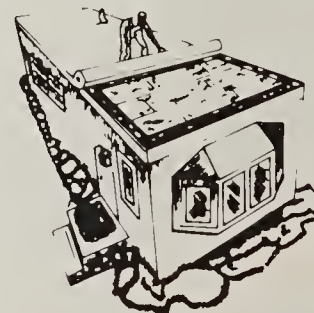
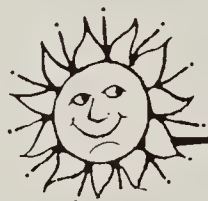
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## Free Electrical Safety Guide For Boaters Now Available

Preventing electrical fires on recreational boats is the purpose of a new guide that's available to boaters.

"Self-Inspection Guide for 12-Volt Electrical Systems," published by the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BOAT/U.S.), is being offered to help boaters spot trouble areas in their electrical systems.

More than 25 percent of all boat fires are caused by faulty electrical systems. The guide outlines areas that boaters should inspect and keep in good repair.

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# TV Station Cuts Co-op's Peak Demand

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Shallotte, and public television are teaming up for a cost-saving energy program.

The electric co-op and WUNJ-TV, Channel 39, in Wilmington, have entered into a partnership that allows that public television station to use its standby generator during peak demand periods to help the co-op reduce its peak load.

In return, Brunswick EMC has reduced the station's electric rates—cutting its power bills by about \$38,000 during its first seven months of operation.

"We tried this as an experiment with public television but we have now incorporated it as

part of our rate design," said David Batten, executive vice president and general manager of Brunswick EMC. "It is available to any of our corporate customers who would like to set up similar systems."

Under the agreement, Brunswick EMC can switch WUNJ-TV to the station's emergency generator during peak load periods to avoid buying higher-priced wholesale power. Currently, the system is used about two to three times a month.

Harvey Arnold, associate director of engineering at the North Carolina Center of Public Television, estimates that the station may save as much as \$80,000 this year.

"As far as we know, this is the first television application of this type of generator system—although some hospitals have used it," he said. "Because the systems can be paralleled, the transfer to the on-site generator happens without interruption. The viewer never knows the difference."

The Center of Public Television is now trying to negotiate with other utilities to set up the same type of partnership at other stations across the state.

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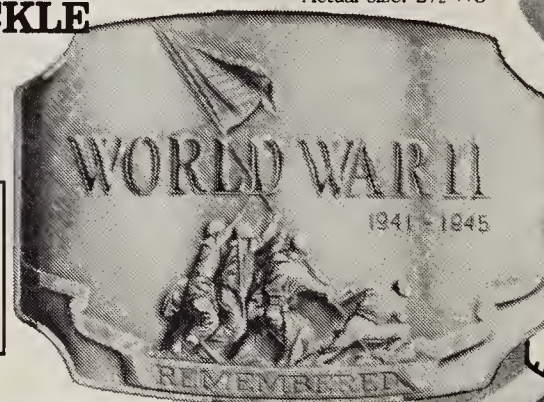
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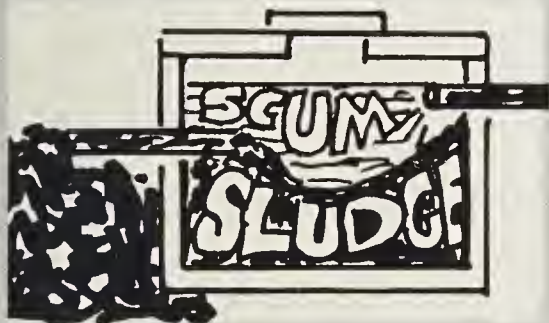
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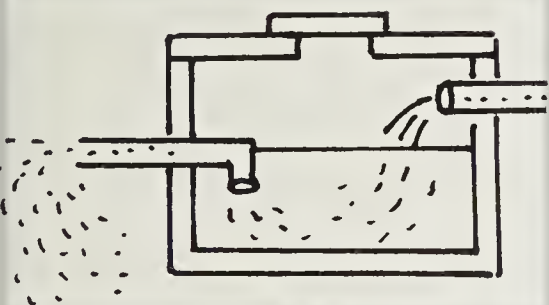
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5591: On the loose, dress with free floating comfort in sleeveless or short sleeved versions. Misses Sizes State SM(10-12), MD(14-16), LG(18-20) or XL(22-24) when ordering.

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## Annual Meetings Calendar

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
<b>April</b>			
20	French Broad, Marshall	Registration: 3:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 6:00 p.m.	Madison High School, By-pass 25-70, Marshall
<b>May</b>			
10	Harkers Island, Harkers Island	Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Harkers Island Elementary School, Harkers Island
18	Halifax, Enfield	Registration: 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:00 a.m.	Enfield Middle School, Enfield





## COUNTRY KITCHEN

### Baked Chicken Stir-Fry

*Submitted by Myra Jo Wood, Chinquapin*

3 lb. chicken pieces  
1 pkg. carrots, sliced  
1 sm. onion, chopped  
1 pkg. celery, sliced

1/4 clove garlic, minced  
Garlic or regular oil  
Salt to taste



Brown outside of chicken in garlic oil (do not cook), set aside in casserole dish. In same frying pan as chicken and oil, stir-fry onion, carrots, celery and garlic until onions are clear in color. Pour over chicken and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until chicken is tender and vegetables are a little crunchy. Serve over rice.

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*Farmer giving witness in a rural church in the early 1940s.*

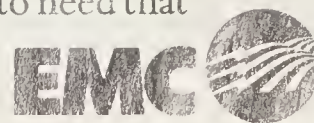


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spirit of cooperation that helped turn on the lights over 50 years ago.



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*For Arthritis Victims*

# Pain Relief May Not Come From A Bottle

*For many folks, advancing age often brings the pain of arthritis. The ailment can affect young people but is a common problem for those who're in their 60s and 70s.*

*Frank Jeter Jr. of Raleigh, a 73-year-old retired Soil Conservation Service-USDA public information specialist and a frequent contributor to Carolina Country, has suffered from arthritis for several years. In this month's column, he writes about his own experiences with the pain and how he's found relief.*

A favorite topic of conversation among folks with arthritis starts with the question: "What have you done that helped you?" This may not be the liveliest topic for entertaining your friends socially, but it is a subject of great interest when you are personally involved—as I am.

Most of us know there are several kinds of medication that can be rubbed on aching joints—a favorite place for arthritis to "settle"—to give topical relief. And we are well aware that prescription medications, some containing narcotics and many that do not, fall into the category of pain-killers.

From my experience, I can say that these do provide some measure of relief, but they sometimes have side effects no one wants. They can induce stomach ulcers. That's why some arthritic folks look for something other than aspirin—that old household stand-by which does curtail arthritic inflammation—or acetaminophen, both of which are often disguised with other highly-advertised names.

From conversations with my friends I found help in two widely different forms. One was from the services of a chiropractor. By the time I was in my sixties I had undergone a lot of medical treatment, including orthopedic surgery, and had received some real relief. But I had never used chiropractic services.

On the advice of several friends, who said they had been helped by such services, I decided that a visit or two wouldn't hurt—and might help. Some other friends recommended a specific chiropractor, and I made my appointment.

After an examination, including X-rays of the lower extremities which were most affected, I began a series of "adjustments." These consisted of spinal manipulations which, I was told, would make significant difference in pains in the hip and leg area.

I believe I went into the treatment with an open mind, and some optimism because trusted friends had said it helped them. Perhaps there was some degree of skepticism as well.

In the process I found that some coverage for these services was possible under Medicare and other health insurance I carry, and that the

chiropractor who was treating me allowed a senior citizen discount of almost 50 percent.

The first treatment gave what might be called dramatic relief from pain. Then a second and fourth followed at regular intervals but there was less change from these. After the manipulations were scheduled on a less-frequent but regular basis, I experienced a real measure of relief.

Did the treatment remove pain entirely? "cure" disability caused by extensive arthritis in both legs? No, not entirely. But the treatment could be called a real success, and I'm continuing to take them regularly.

If you suffer from arthritis, I would recommend that you try the services of a chiropractor.

What would you say about using a small portable battery-powered device that gives instant relief from pain? Almost any kind of pain. In the course of my own experience I encountered such a unit, following the recommendation of a physician specializing in rheumatology and a group of highly-respected physical therapists.

That's how I came to rent, for a period of several weeks, a device called a Transcutaneous Electric Nerve Stimulation (TENS) unit. You

also buy them, for several hundred dollars. The TENS unit is powered by a single 9-volt battery, the kind you use around the house, and it works quite well.

The treatment consists of rigging a control unit to a set of

wires (four in my case), which are applied to the skin above the affected areas with a conductive pad lubricated with a greasy substance called "conductivity gel." This is evidently an excellent conductor of electricity.

You choose the amount of "spark" to be applied through little switches on the TENS unit itself, and where the contacts are placed the pain comes to a sudden halt.

*On the advice of friends, one arthritis victim found help in treatments by a chiropractor and in a battery-operated device that masks pain with electrical impulses.*





The main drawback is that when you turn off the electricity, the returns. The treatment has no lasting effect. But it's dandy while it's working.

The device is highly portable. I could place the contacts before dressing. Then the small control unit, with wires attached, could be hooked to the belt that held up my trousers. And I could apply the "juice" any time I wanted to, for several hours at a time. The battery was a rechargeable nickel-cadmium, and I could rotate the three batteries that came in the kit I was renting.

The only reason I didn't buy the unit for long-term use is that other measures were also supplying relief from pain, and I didn't relish the idea of going around "wired" most of the day.

Along with all other forms of relief not involving prescription drugs, I could mention the simplest of all—something most people have in their homes. It's the reliable old electric heating pad, which you can turn on, set the heat level, and apply to any affected area. Does this provide relief? You bet it does, and it can have a useful role along with the other elaborate measures already mentioned.

If you suffer from arthritis, I hope some of these tips will prove helpful to you. If you've found other effective ways to cope with the ailment, let us know and we'll include your experiences in a future column.

—Frank Jeter Jr.

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## Some Social Security Recipients Can Obtain Supplemental Income

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SSI is a program of the Social Security Administration that pays monthly payments to people who are aged, blind, disabled or earn little income.

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## HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

By Hank Sm

There's no time to waste. Make the most of your gardening opportunities now as immediate attention will make tending the garden easier when summer arrives. Planting and cleaning up are among the chores that need attention.

Much of the success of the summer garden depends upon what is done in the next few weeks.

### **Remedy Cold Damage**

Late winter freezes cause damage to some plants. You'll want to check damages from harsh weather before branches, limbs and twigs of trees and shrubs are obscured by new foliage.

Prune away damaged wood. These are the first places that insects and diseases attack. Cut shrubs back to live wood. With your thumbnail scratch the bark of branches at the base of the plant.

If the wood underneath the bark has a healthy appearance, scratch the bark six to eight inches higher. Repeat until the scratched bark reveals a tan or brown color. Make your pruning cut about one inch

beneath the discolored wood. In many cases, the lower part of the plant was not damaged. Tips of branches often suffer freeze damage.

### **Vegetables**

Plantings can get underway for turnips, summer squash, tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, corn, pumpkins, cantaloupes, watermelons and kohlrabi.

If blossom-end rot attacked your tomatoes last year, add lime to the soil as directed by a soil test.



### **Caladiums**

When soil temperature warms up to about 70 degrees (F), plant caladium tubers in a shaded spot. These colorful foliage plants add much to the summer landscape. They're wonderful additions when massed in beds at the base of shrubs in the border. Caladiums are good in containers on

a shady patio; they do well in window boxes and hanging baskets.

Plant caladiums in a loose soil. Cover the tops with no more than two inches of soil.

### **Insect Control**

Set out bait to protect flower and vegetable seedlings from attacks of snails and slugs. Aphids may reach their peak populations at this season; so may ladybugs and lacewings which feed on aphids. Since chemical sprays kill good as well as bad insects, control aphids with a blast of water from the garden hose. Also, soapy water will smother the slow-moving aphids, but will not harm ladybugs and lacewings.

### **Houseplants Help Clear The Air**

Certain houseplants can absorb many home pollutants. NASA scientists estimate that one 10- to 12-inch potted plant per 100 square feet of floor space will do much to purify the air.

Among the best choices to "take up" formaldehyde: spider (airplane) plant, pothos, philodendron

and sansevieria (snake plant). To check benzene: mums, gerbera daisies and other flowering plants. For general purification of

air select dracena, aloe, English ivy, peace lily, Chinese evergreen, dracena reed palm and banana tree.

### **Tips To Spring Into Summer**

1. It's time to prune grapes. Don't worry about vines "bleeding" as this is a natural process. Contact your county agent for information on how to prune bunch grapes and muscadines.
2. After foliage has completely died back, dig, divide and replant spring-flowering bulbs that have not been lifted in several years.
3. If you have an out-of-the-way space, start a compost pile. Your plants will benefit from this super-fertilizer.
4. Fertilize azaleas with a balanced fertilizer. Or, use azalea-and-camellia special mix fertilizer. Prune azaleas after flowering.
5. Fertilize warm-season grasses: centipede, St. Augustine and zoysia.
6. It's time to set strawberry plants. Be sure to get certified plants.
7. Spray unwanted honeysuckle, Bermuda grass, poison ivy and other weeds with Round-up. Spray with care because Round-Up kills any plant it touches.
8. Decide which vegetables you want to plant in the garden this year.
9. Apply pre-emergence crabgrass killer to lawns.
10. After the last frost, dill, basil, marjoram and summer savory can be set out. Use a portion of your vegetable garden, or create a special herb bed.
11. Camellias: rake up spent blooms, leaves and old mulch. Put in a trash bag and discard. Feed plants with special camellias fertilizer.
12. Fertilize roses and spray weekly with a fungicide.



## How Long Until Flower Seeds Will Come Up?

This question often is asked by young gardeners or first-time adult gardeners.

Some of the more common annual flowers germinate in five to ten days are: candytuft, zinnia, marigold, lobelia, pansy, petunia, annual cosmos, nasturtium and cosmos.

These seeds require 10 to 20 days to sprout: foxglove, gaillardia, kochia, forget-me-not, verbena, Shasta daisy and scabiosa.

## For Perennials With proper care, perennials can be the backbone



For flower gardeners, flowering plants don't have to be started from seed and planted each spring. Perennials benefit from being fertilized as soon as soil is warm enough to be worked. Apply 20 to 50 pounds of a 5-10-5 fertilizer to each square foot. When working fertilizer into the soil, take

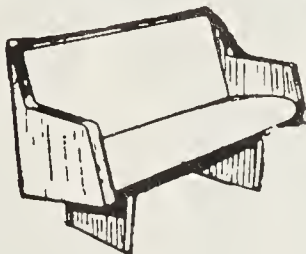
care that you do not injure dormant perennials or early-flowering bulbs.

Gloriosa daisies, hardy asters, chrysanthemums, delphiniums, gerbera daisies, perennial phlox and rudbeckias may be lifted, divided and replanted at this time. When resetting these flowers, work a tablespoon of fertilizer into the soil beneath each plant. One-fourth cup of processed manure, available at nurseries and garden centers, also is beneficial when worked into the soil.

Container-grown perennials, now available at garden centers, should be set out for late-summer and autumn blooms. Ready to be moved to permanent garden spots are gaillardia, dianthus, carnation, Shasta daisy and mums.

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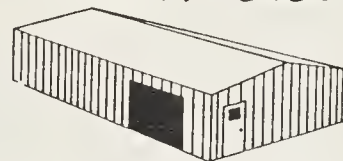


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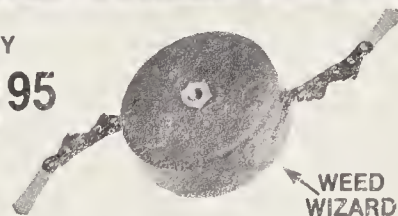
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# How Does Your Work Rate In A Child's Eyes

Have you noticed that you can get a whole new perspective on your livelihood if you look at it through the eyes of the small children in your life?

Even if Dad's the CEO of a major corporation, his kids would undoubtedly take greater pleasure in telling their friends he's a fireman. After all, what does a little tyke say about a captain of industry: "He works at a desk and goes to lots of meetings."

You can bet that won't impress any backyard playmates. The child might skim quickly over that and move on to mention Good Ol' Uncle Joe, who drives an 18-wheeler up and down the Interstates.

I have to admit that my work has often presented a problem for my children when they've needed to describe it. As preschoolers, they struggled to make any sense of it for classmates or teachers.

Melissa, who's now 14, took a solid swing at it when she told her first preschool teacher that her Dad "makes magazines." At the time, I thought that would come as quite a shock to the printers who assemble *Carolina Country* each month. It was somewhat reassuring that she was just as terse in describing her Mother's role on the Meredith College faculty: "She teaches Big Girls."

When Ellen, now 7, went through the same preschool, she knew I had some kind of connection with magazines but couldn't make that square with other comments she'd heard about what goes on at my office. She once asked me if it wasn't "a place where they do something about electricity?"

She clearly didn't see how a magazine editor would fit into that scene.

Adding to the confusion about all this is our practice of using the term "school" in referring to Meredith. As in: "Cynthia, what time do you have to be at school tomorrow?"

When they were younger, this gave our girls the idea that boys eventually put their textbooks aside and started going to "work." Girls, however, just kept right on going to "school."

The concept was reinforced by the fact that they never saw any "Big Boys" at Meredith, where they spent a lot of time with "Big Girl"

babysitters. I have to assume that they saw the men on the faculty there in some sort of "work" role that didn't apply to the women.

It came as no surprise, then, that Melissa and Ellen had trouble understanding what was going on with their aunt and uncle when he was working on a master's degree. They thought it so strange that *he* went "school" while *she* went to "work."

Over time, of course, the girls gradually sorted all this out for themselves. And they've even reached the point of seeing some value in my day-to-day routine. Melissa didn't even seem to mind it when I visited school several months ago to discuss my job in a journalism class made up of her teenage peers. And Ellen recently chose to write about a magazine editor's work for a second grade project examining various occupations.

After "interviewing" me, she wrote that a magazine editor "provides information that people need," noting that he must do "most of his work in an office building at a desk." There were no 18-wheelers to spice up this report for the bulletin board audience!

Although much of the report was based on the interview, she described an editor's schedule in her own way: "Most editors have to work from morning until night."

I chuckled when I read that, and told her I might need to show it to my boss at the office sometime.

She smiled and, after a pause, said: "Maybe I should have written something about your boss!"

However mysterious "work" may have seemed, she'd already learned that apple-polishing is by no means confined to the classroom.

## Potpourri:

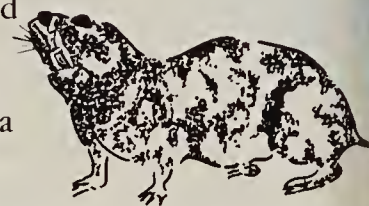
- Do you have an unusual method of getting rid of gophers?

Maybe you'll share it with us for use in a future column and to provide a helping hand for a California writer who's doing research on the subject.

Bruce Cook of Sylmar, CA, wrote to say he's "researching unique ways of getting rid of gophers from lawns and gardens, and would like to ask your readers to send me their favorite method."

We'll forward your method to him if you send it to us at P. O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

- Did you hear the one about the old fellow who explained his faulty memory this way: "I've always had a photographic memory—and I still do. I've just run out of film!"





## Manager Of Raleigh Farmers Market Gets National Award

Charles D. Edwards, manager of the North Carolina State Farmers Market in Raleigh, has been named the National Market Manager of the Year for 1990.

Edwards was honored during ceremonies at the 45th Annual National Association of Produce Market Managers convention held recently in Charleston, SC.

The award recognized Edwards for his dedication and contribution to his profession and the association.

*See related story, pages 10-11.*

"The N. C. Department of Agriculture (N.C. D.A.), which also has Farmers Markets in Asheville and Charlotte, is recognized as being one of the best farmers market systems in the nation," said N. C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham. "Much of the credit goes to Charlie and his staff."

A native of Sparta, Edwards has been manager of the Raleigh market since 1985. A 1965 graduate of N. C. State University, he joined the NCDA in 1965 as an agricultural engineer with the marketing division. He later held the position of marketing specialist from 1966 to 1973; served as chief of market development and promotion from 1973 to 1975; and as chief of the market news section from 1975 to 1985.

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